

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Claims

Claims 98 - 104, 109 - 111, 114 - 124, 129 - 131, 134 - 144 are pending and presented for examination. Claims 136, 137, and 144 are presently amended. Claims 1-97 were previously canceled without prejudice. After entry of these amendments, claims 98 - 104, 109 - 111, 114 - 124, 129 - 131, 134 - 144 will be pending.

Claims 136, 137, and 144 stand objected to. Applicants have amended the claims to correct the deficiencies cited by the Examiner and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections. The amendments to these claims are supported *inter alia* by the corresponding previous claims. Applicants believe the amendments introduce no new matter and respectfully request their entry. Otherwise, all the pending claims (i.e., claims 98 - 104, 109 - 111, 114 - 124, 129 - 131, 134 - 144) were indicated to be in condition for an allowance. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter.

The Specification

The specification stands objected to with regard to two typographical errors. The first error concerns the missing space in SEQ IDNO:3 in the paper filed on 28 May 2002. The second concerns a smudge which partially obscures the third word on line 29 at page 21 of the originally filed specification. Applicants have submitted amendments to the originally filed specification to correct both concerns. Applicants further call the Examiner's attention to the substitute specification filed on May 28, 2002 in response to the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers. The substitute specification did not contain the smudge. The amendments to the specification are supported *inter alia* by the corresponding previous paragraphs in the original specification. Applicants believe these amendments introduce no new matter and respectfully request their entry.

In view of the above, the Applicants respectfully request that the above objections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Appl. No. 10/054,873
Amdt. dated January 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 19, 2004


PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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